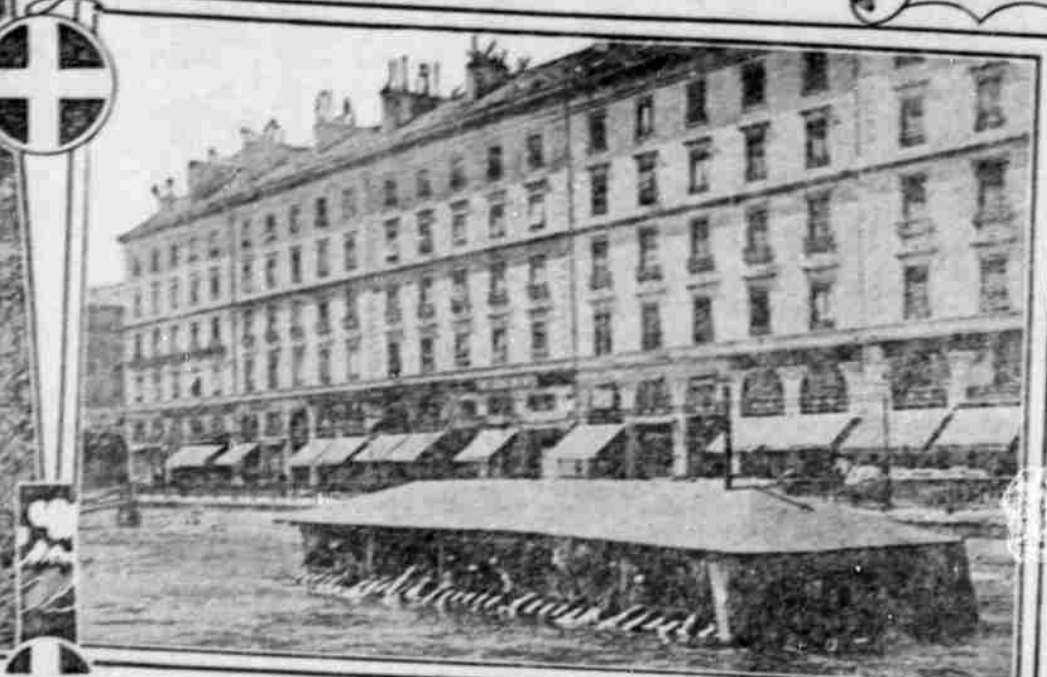




# The Wonderful Swiss People

By GEORGE W. BURTON



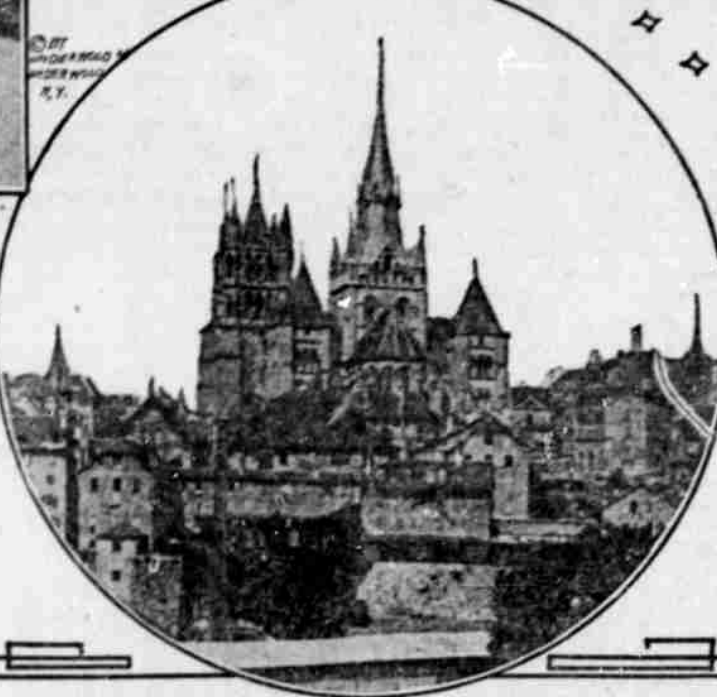
SWISS WASHERWOMEN



ROAD IN THE ENGADINE, SWITZERLAND



LANTERN TOWER AND OLD BRIDGE, LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND



CATHEDRAL OF LAUSANNE, LAKE GENEVA

**I**F the stupendous grandeur and the bewitching beauty of the scenery of their country deter the Swiss from attempting by human skill to reproduce the landscape because they feel it is impossible to do this worthily, surely no sense of awe or admiration holds them back from making the most out of the endowments the Creator has given them out of which to make a living. One's astonishment and admiration for the natural scenery is fairly divided with the feeling one has for the people, so matchless in their simplicity, so rattling in their toils, so frugal in their expenses, so cleanly in their lives, so unaffectedly kindly in their impulses and so successful in wringing a comfortable living for so large a population from so small an area of land. For the amount of good soil in the country the population is one of the most dense on the globe, and yet the people live better than almost any other among whom I have spent any length of time on any continent.

In Switzerland begging is unknown, abject poverty is nowhere in evidence. Rags are not seen, nor is there a speck of dirt avoidable by known means encountered on the persons of the people. In the homes they occupy or in the streets of their cities. These characteristics of persons and streets, of homes and furniture, are not merely common or general; they are universal to the extent of being almost without exception. No Swiss is dirty, not one is ragged, none seems to want any of the common necessities of life. So with the homes and their furnishings; they are all clean. So are all the streets of all the cities. And the kindliness of manner is almost, if not quite, as nearly universal as the thrift and economy. They are never rude, nor ever thoughtless.

This country so wonderful in scenery is only 16,000 square miles in extent. Yet 2,600,000 of these wonderful people wring a good livelihood from that handbreadth of territory. That is not the full extent of their achievement. The little patch is composed of a larger extent of waste land than any other where a considerable population lives. It does not seem as if any possible use could be made of half the area, except to afford a coasting ground for the grown-up children of Europe to slide on the ice. We easily recall the song "Everybody Works but Father." It does not go in Switzerland. In the vales and on the small plains, along the hillsides and up to the eternal snows on the peaks of the Alps, these people all work. They begin in early infancy and do not quit until old age is decrepit indeed. Yet they all get a pretty good education, few of them not speaking two languages, most of them three, and hundreds of them four. I have met a few who had a pretty good use of all of six or eight tongues. They all read and know something of the world and its ways. My mind turns from the glories of the scenery to the admirable traits of character that seem to be as common among the men and women as grandeur or beauty is to the mountains and vales, the valleys and woodlands of fair Switzerland.

What do they all do? Ask rather, What do they not do? They do their own work and a good deal for other nations. Lying in the center of Europe, with railroad lines going out in all directions, with three great tunnels through the Alps through which trains pass from the farthest limits of Italy, from all the seaports of that country, to the Baltic and eastward to Russia, Switzerland has become a great distributing point for goods from all over the world. It has amazed me to note the amount of wine credited to this country from Spain and Italy; so of olive oil and of oranges and lemons. Only a small portion is used here. But all Europe is made to pay tribute for these products of the south. Think of the commerce of this small territory of ice and rocks, amounting to \$561,548,047 a year. The imports show to the extent of \$339,774,764 and the exports to \$239,083,285. Spending more than they make? Do not mistake. They are doing nothing of the kind. The Swiss do not consume all the goods represented in these import figures. They go to feed, house and clothe the hundreds of thousands of visitors.

The people cultivate every square foot of soil

that can be made to produce a head of cabbage, a peck of potatoes or a plum tree. Besides doing all the farm work, 130,000 persons are engaged in home industries. Of all who work at textiles 39 per cent. are these home workers. So of all other industries from 16 to 40 per cent. are those who do their work at home when the weather is too severe to permit them to work in the fields, or at night when it is dark out of doors. Ten per cent. of all the work done in all industries is performed by these toilers. There are 75,000 of them producing textiles and 12,000 at watchmaking. The Swiss pay \$34,516,444 for cotton and manufactures thereof and re-export these at nearly 100 per cent. profit. They pay about an equal amount for silk and manufactures of that fiber, and export the products of both at nearly as great a gain. The watches sold abroad bring in \$28,374,291 in a single year, and that is almost all profit. The people of the United States pay the Swiss \$1,329,025 for silks, \$14,595,420 for embroideries, \$1,895,514 for watches, and \$2,674,880 for cheese. In 1901 we paid the Swiss a total of \$16,741,677 for work they did for us, and in 1909 we paid them \$27,659,578.

Zurich, a place of about 200,000 population, has eighty-six mills working on silk and cotton goods. In all Switzerland there are 14,000 looms, and 75,000 persons are engaged in weaving. They are mostly women, and they earn three to six francs a day—pretty good wages as things go in Europe. St. Gall is as famous for embroideries as Zurich for weaving or Geneva for watches. Sixty-three mills spin cotton, with 1,498,609 spindles, and twenty-three mills make cotton thread with 69,564 spindles. Sixty-five mills weave cotton, and these have 19,250 looms in all.

Those who prescribe fashion in women's dress work great havoc at times to Swiss industries. The year 1910 was a bad one in this respect. Those who dictate styles decreed in favor of light Japanese and Chinese silks, and the Swiss looms were stopped in thousands. It was also made a law of fashion that dresses were to be trimmed with strips of silk and not with ribbons, and so the ribbon factories were obliged to curtail output. With the cutting off of the embroidery exports to the United States the year was a bad one. But the people get along with a little closer economy. Their garments are as decent, their smiles as bright. If any housewife can show a dining-room table at all cleaner than the floors in the Swiss hotels she is a crown of glory to her husband and worth the good old English epithet of "notable." Not a speck of dirt can be found in any nook or corner of a Swiss bedroom at even a hotel or a pension.

So there is no fault to be found with Switzerland and none with its people? Alas, there is nothing perfect. The Swiss are a truly peculiar people, and although as a rule peculiarly admirable, there are flies in their ointment, too. Switzerland is the oldest republic in the world. It is also the one where the government is conducted on the most popular plan. It is what we call in

America a "mob democracy," except that the people never conduct themselves in the manner of mobs. But they have never surrendered many of their natural rights formally to the government. Almost all questions large and small are settled by popular vote. The initiative and referendum have long been in full force here. So theoretically this is the most purely democratic people in the world. "Theoretically," mind you. As a matter of fact, the people who might decide every question do not exercise their rights. It is at this time as badly ridden by politicians as any country in the world. The people do not vote in sufficient numbers to make a popular choice for office. The "machine" does it all, and the people stand by and let the lawless win, until they become aroused, which is usually about some minor matter. The success of foreigners in getting trade is creating bitter opposition to them. Germans are particularly hateful. So when a person of foreign birth is brought up before a socialist judge by a socialist policeman, and as half the fine goes where it does the "cause" the most good, it goes hard with the foreigner. The people are beginning to feel the effects of raising the wages of unskilled workmen to the level of those with skill.

Will the people shake themselves out of their sleep? I think so. They get excited sometimes. Automobiles are things to the Swiss like the "abomination of desolation" to the Jews. In some cantons these vehicles are absolutely forbidden. It happens that these are the places particularly dear to the tourist host because of their beauty. Attempt after attempt has been made to modify the law, but the people always vote "No" in the majority. The hotel men and others feel this, but the peasant is obtuse. They may get awake some time and do more important things at the polls. They may see to it that the policeman and his chum from the socialist camp do not impose fines on innocent persons in order that the policeman, the judge and the "machine" may all have money in pocket.

The canton prohibiting automobiles is that where the Engadine country is, and the roads are steep and narrow and the machines dangerous. But besides that it is the place most sought by tourists, and the Swiss make all their living out of these in that part of the country. Much money comes from the rent of the coaches with four or six horses carrying tourists, and the tariff is \$5 a day each, or \$40 for the coach. No wonder the automobile is not a pleasant sight to the people.

## The KITCHEN CABINET

**B**ACK of the loaf is the snowy flour, and back of the flour is the mill; back of the mill the wheat and the sower, and the sun and the Father's will. —Babcock.

RAINY DAY DUTIES.

"When God sorts out the weather and sends rain, why, rain's my choice." A rainy day is often as beneficial to the household as it is to the soil, as such a day is one usually free from outside interruptions, and much may be accomplished without interference. There are always things that have been put off for more time; arrangement of closets and boxes and drawers, the looking for the piece of trimming or article in some magazine; all of these things take time, and many cannot be begun and left unfinished.

Rainy days are good days to plan for future work, to finish up that little piece of sewing that has waited so long; in fact each household will find just the needed time to accomplish so much that has been waiting for a more convenient season.

A scrap book that money couldn't purchase may be made in odd moments and the time never be missed. Cut out from catalogues and periodicals pictures of authors and other interesting people with an autograph when possible and any interesting clippings about them pasted on the same or opposite pages. This scrap book can be handed down with up-to-date additions to several generations of children and prove both instructive and entertaining. Very young children may have their minds stored with valuable knowledge without the effort of study by simply having these pictures to look at and the people there pictured told about in story form.

When going out on a rainy day, protect the feet, as damp feet cause many kinds of trouble.

A very nice arrangement to wear under a long coat on a rainy day is a strip of half-inch black elastic with an eye on one end and a hook on the other. Slip around the body, having it drawn tight, and pull up the skirts all around. The elastic will hold them up out of the wet.

Rubbers that are worse than useless when the heels leak, can be made useful by cutting out the heel like a sandal rubber. They can then be worn as sandals.

## W

HEN a man ain't got no ideas of his own, he'd ought to be kind of careful who he borrows from. —Owen Winter.

### FANCY CAKES FOR FESTIVITIES.

Small cakes that will keep indefinitely are a reserve that all wise housewives desire to have on hand. The following has good keeping qualities:

**Rocks.**—Cream a cup of butter, add a cup and a half of sugar, three eggs, a teaspoonful of cinnamon, half a teaspoonful of allspice, a teaspoonful of soda dissolved in two tablespoonfuls of water, a pound each of walnuts and dates cut fine and two and a half cups of flour. Drop from a spoon on a buttered sheet.

**Oatmeal Cookies.**—Brown the oatmeal until a light color and put through the meat chopper. Take a cup of shortening, two cups of oatmeal, two cups of flour, a cup of sugar, a teaspoon of cinnamon and one of soda, two eggs and seven tablespoonfuls of sour milk. A few nuts and raisins may be put through the meat grinder with the oatmeal and added, if desired.

**Rice Cookies.**—Cream a half a cup of butter, add a third of a cup of sugar gradually, one egg well beaten, three-fourths of a cup of flour, a half teaspoon of vanilla. Beat well and drop from a spoon on a buttered sheet. Spread thinly with a knife dipped in cold water. Put four large raisins on each cookie. Blanched almonds or strips of citron cut in small pieces may be used.

**Nut Cookies.**—Beat the yolks of two eggs until thick, add a cup of brown sugar gradually, a cup of nut meats, then the whites of the eggs, and six tablespoonfuls of flour mixed with a few grains of salt. Drop from the tip of a spoon on a buttered sheet. Spread and bake in a moderate oven.

**Cocoanut Cream Cookies.**—Beat two eggs until light, add a cup of sugar gradually, a half cup of shredded cocoanut, a cup of cream and three cups of flour sifted with a teaspoonful of salt and three teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Chill and roll out one-half inch thick. Shape with a small round cutter and bake in a moderate oven.

*Nellie Maxwell.*

A Noble Sacrifice.  
"I understand that her father died in the insane asylum."  
"Yes, he did."  
"That's too bad, too bad."  
"Oh, I don't know. He accumulated a million dollars before he went in."

## SYRUP OF FIGS AND ELIXIR OF SENNA

Cleanses the System effectually; Dispels colds and Headaches, due to constipation. Best for men, women and children: young and old.

To get its Beneficial effects, always note the name of the Company. **CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO.** plainly printed on the front of every package of the Genuine

### HARD LUCK.



The Fortune Teller—You are destined to marry great wealth.  
I. M. P. Cautious—Fine.  
The Fortune Teller—Unfortunately, death will claim you two days after the event.

### Sluth Guarded Jewels.

Pity the poor duchess of Marlborough, who has been driven to insomnia through worry over her jewels. She has hired six former Scotland Yard detectives to camp at Sunderland house, Mayfair, three by day and three by night, and guard her gems. The outlay for this is something more than \$6,000 annually. She has spent many thousands in equipping her mansion with all the latest wrinkles in burglar alarm and safety devices, but she considers the money that buys her peace of mind as an investment well made.

### His Suspicion.

"Why did you leave the place to which you were previously employed?" asked the head of the firm.  
"I think," said the applicant for the position of office boy, "de boss was afraid if I stayed I might, git his place."

### Indefinite.

"I want a puff," suddenly snarled the petted, spoiled star.  
"Yes, my dear Miss Starlite," meekly answered the long suffering manager. "Shall I call on the confectioner or the press agent?"

### Bush Leaguers.

Professor—You know that the lowest type of human beings is found in Australia. What are those natives called, Mr. Fanning?  
Student (captain of the ball team)—Bush leaguers.—Puck.

### WORKS WITHOUT FAITH

Faith Came After the Works Had Laid the Foundation.

A Bay State belle talks thus about coffee:  
"While a coffee drinker I was a sufferer from indigestion and intensely painful nervous headaches, from childhood."

"Seven years ago my health gave out entirely. I grew so weak that the exertion of walking, if only a few feet, made it necessary for me to lie down. My friends thought I was marked for consumption—weak, thin and pale."

"I realized the danger I was in and tried faithfully to get relief from medicines, till, at last, after having employed all kinds of drugs, the doctor acknowledged that he did not believe it was in his power to cure me."

"While in this condition a friend induced me to quit coffee and try Postum, and I did so without the least hope that it would do me any good. I did not like it at first, but when it was properly made I found it was a most delicious and refreshing beverage. I am especially fond of it served at dinner ice-cold, with cream."

"In a month's time I began to improve, and in a few weeks my indigestion ceased to trouble me, and my headache stopped entirely. I am so perfectly well now that I do not look like the same person, and I have so gained in flesh that I am 15 pounds heavier than ever before."

"This is what Postum has done for me. I still use it and shall always do so." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

"There's a reason," and it is explained in the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs.

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.